

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 211625Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7864

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MARR

SUBJECT: TRAINING FOR RESERVISTS

REF: USDAO SANTIAGO IR 6 817 0069 74

1. DURING MY CALL MARCH 19 ON DEFENSE MINISTER VICE ADMIRAL PATRICIO CARVAJAL PRADO, I TOOK THE OCCASION TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE JUST PUBLISHED DECREE WHICH REQUIRES ALL MALES 21 TO 35 TO REPORT FOR A 28 DAY PERIOD OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION (SEE REF IR). THE MINISTER DID NOT APPEAR TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE DECREE AND FIRST SAID THAT IT WAS ONE FORM OF RE-VERIFYING WHERE PERSONS OF THESE AGES ARE NOW LIVING. ADDITIONALLY HE WAS VAGUE AS TO WHAT THE ACTUAL PLANS ARE TO CONDUCT THE TRAINING BUT DID SAY IT WOULD BE IN ALL SERVICES AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF COMMANDERS AND CHIEFS OF THE RESPECTIVE SERVICES. I ASKED IF HE WOULD ESTIMATE THE MAGNITUDE OF PERSONS WHO WOULD RECEIVE THIS TRAINING AND THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD NO IDEA JUST HOW MANY MALES REACH THE AGE OF 19 ANNUALLY, BUT THAT ABOUT 15,000 ARE DRAFTED ANNUALLY, THAT THIS TRAINING WOULD BE FOR ALL PHYSICALLY FIT MALES REGARDLESS OF WHO HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY DRAFTED AND THAT THE MAJORITY WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PERFORMING SOME MILITARY TRAINING.

2. COMMENT: OBVIOUS FROM THE RESPONSES THE MINISTER WAS
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NOT INFORMED ON THIS DECREE, AND THAT JUNTA HAD GIVEN LITTLE

THOUGHT TO ITS RAMIFICATIONS. PRESS REPORTS MILITARY HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED THOUSANDS OF TELEPHONE INQUIRIES, NUMBERS OF MEN REPORTED TO GARRISONS, AND OFFICIAL RESPONSE WAS TO RETURN HOME AND WAIT UNTIL CALLED. GOVERNMENT COMMENT MAKES IT CLEAR NO DECISIONS YET TAKEN ON NUMBERS OF CALLUPS, TIMING OR DURATION OF TRAINING. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT DECREE MAY BE ANOTHER STEP--THOUGH AN ILL-CONSIDERED STEP--IN CURRENT PROCESS OF BEEFING UP COUNTRY'S MILITARY MANPOWER GENERALLY, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT JUNTA WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE UPDATED INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS AND STATUS OF ALL MALES IN 19-35 YEAR AGE GROUPS.

POPPER

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Message Attributes

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